



Nevada GEAR UP Program – Year Three

Subgrantee: Clark County School District

Name of School: Palo Verde High School
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Palo Verde High School Abstract

Palo Verde High School (PVHS) has a student population of 3,220, and is in its seventh year of operation with a full class of students in ninth through twelfth grades. PVHS is located in Summerlin, a rapidly growing suburban middle class to affluent community. For the 2004 school year, Palo Verde High School's GEAR UP Grant will address three major components: student achievement, career development, and parent involvement. These three areas will help our students gain the skills and knowledge necessary to become college bound and involve their family in the decision making process. Our program is meant to encourage our GEAR UP scholars to graduate from high school with at least a 2.0 GPA and to participate in higher education. Various academic support programs will be utilized during the 2004 school year in an effort to keep our GEAR UP scholars on track for graduation, decrease chances of dropping out, and prepare them for the future.

Palo Verde offers each student eight courses on a 4x4 block schedule. Any student failing a class can make up that class during the next school year without cost to the student. During the 2004 school year two different tutoring programs will be available to our GEAR UP scholars and each scholar will have an adult advocate on campus. Also, any student failing three or more classes from their first quarter will be assigned a student mentor and become a member of the CHIPs program on campus. All freshmen are required to take a full semester study skills course, which teaches a variety of study methods and strategies useful not only in school but throughout life. Every student also receives a daily planner for keeping track of homework, assignments, and other scholastic activities.

A variety of incentives will also be available to our GEAR UP scholars. Palo Verde implemented the national Renaissance program during the 2003 school year. This program recognizes any student improving their GPA by .5% or better, and recognizes all students earning a 2.0 GPA or better. The GEAR UP grant will also provide quarterly incentive prizes for those scholars participating in the programs offered through the Palo Verde GEAR UP Program.

A variety of college and career planning experiences will be available to our GEAR UP scholars. All scholars will be asked to attend the traditional field trip to a local college. Various instructors will give presentations after school regarding career certification and college track programs offered through PVHS, CCSD, and the CCSN. Each GEAR UP scholar will discuss future plans with his counselor who will then offer elective suggestions related to the student's career or college choice. Through newsletters, phone calls, a survey, and dinners, parents will be encouraged to participate in their child's education and future planning. We have planned three separate parent nights, which will take place in the neighborhood of our scholars.